

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given to the present application. The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and it is respectfully submitted that the application as amended, is patentable over the art of record. Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 13–18 are allowed. Claim 3 has been amended.

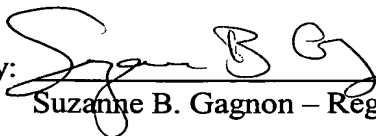
Claims 3 and 7–10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kanbara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,516,201). Claim 3 has been amended with subject matter of claim 13. Therefore, claim 3 is in condition for allowance. Claims 5, 7, 9, 10 and 12 depend from claim 3. Therefore, claims 5, 7, 9, 10 and 12 are also in condition for allowance.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application as amended is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33670.

Respectfully submitted,

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